

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 04049 292329Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----105265 292331Z /65
O 292237Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4200

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4049

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EWWT, MPOL, PFOR, NU
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF U.S. NAVY SUBMARINE TO NICARAGUAN PORT

1. COMSUBLANT, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, HAS CABLED USDAO MANAGUA REQUEST-
ING CLEARANCE FOR "NON-SALUTING" VISIT TO PORT OF CORINTO, NICA-
RAGUA, BY USS WAHOO, AN SS 565 SUBMARINE, DURING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER
15-18, 1977. USDAO HAS SOLICITED EMBASSY'S VIEWS AND CONCURRENCE
IN THIS PORT VISIT.

2. EMBASSY INCLINED TO GRANT ITS CLEARANCE FOR THE VVDIT BUT, AT
THE SAME TIME, IS AWARE OF POSSIBLE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS WHICH
MIGHT ATTACH TO SUCH A PORT CALL AT THIS TIME. THESE IMPLICATIONS
INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

...THREE YEARS HAVE LAPSED SINCE A U.S. NAVAL VESSEL HAS CALLED
AT NICARAGUAN PORT, ACCORDING TO BEST OF OUR MEMORY.

... PRESIDENT SOMOZA WILL HAVE, WE EXPECT, JUST RETURNED
TO NICARAGUA FROM HOSPITALIZATION IN THE U.S. AND THE GON MIGHT
PUBLICIZE THE SUBMARINE'S VISIT AS EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED GOOD RELA-
TIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND NICARAGUA.

... EVEN IF SOMOZA STILL ABROAD, GON COULD STILL SEEK TO MAKE POLI-
TICAL CAPITAL OF VISIT IN ORDER TO OFFSET APPEARANCE OF SOMEWHAT
STRAINED RELATIONS AS A RESULT OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS PRESSURES ON
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NICARAGUA.

3. EMBASSY THINKS WHATEVER CASE GON MIGHT TRY TO MAKE THAT SHIP
VISIT INDICATES U.S. SUPPORT FOR GON OR WEAKENING OF U.S. HUMAN
RIGHTS PRESSURES WOULD BE VERY TENUOUS AND SOMEWHAT UNBELIEVABLE.
IN EXPERIENCE OF SOME EMBASSY PERSONNEL, PORT CALLS OF THIS TYPE
MAY BE SEEN MORE AS PERSON-TO-PERSON PROGRAM THAN GOVERNMENT-TO-

GOVERNMENT.

4. HAVING CONSIDERED AFOREMENTIONED POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, EM-BASSY IS PREPARED TO APPROVE PORT CALL UNLESS DEPARTMENT OBJECTS. REPLY REQUESTED SOONEST.
RUBENSTEIN

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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